

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2906

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS LIMA 10028

FOR AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, EAID

SUBJECT: ANDEAN PACT: AID RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL
ON SECONDARY TROPICAL WOODS

REF: STATE 219760

1. EMBASSY PRESENTED SUBJECT PROPOSAL TO JUNTA. IN LETTER OF RESPONSE, JUNTA EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION FOR USG INTEREST IN COOPERATING IN ANDEAN TROPICAL FOREST PROJECT (DECISION 89). JUNTA INDICATED THAT THE TYPE OF ASSISTANCE TENTATIVELY OFFERED THROUGH USDA FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY COULD BE APPLIED MOST EFFECTIVELY DURING SECOND PHASE OF ANDEAN PROGRAM. THE FIRST PHASE AS APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION, IS MORE MODEST AND INVOLVES PRIMARILY NATIONAL LABORATORY FACILITIES IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES.

2. COMMENT: CANADIAN FOREIGN AID OFFICIAL TOLD REGIONAL INTEGRATION OFFICER THAT CANADA'S IDRC HAS AN UNTIED ASSISTANCE GRANT OF OVER ONE MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE ANDEAN PROGRAM IN LAST STAGE OF APPROVAL PROCESS. EMPHASIS WILL BE ON DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL R&D CAPABILITY, PARTICULARLY IN UTILIZATION OF MISCELLANEOUS HARDWOODS IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, AND ON EXTENSION SERVICES TO LOCAL FIRMS. JUNTA APPARENTLY PREFERS TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON PROGRAM AS APPROVED BY COMMISSION

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BEFORE PLANNING FURTHER STEPS. TECHNICIANS IN JUNTA

FEEL THAT SOPHISTICATED TESTING AND EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCTION RUNS AT USDA LABORATORY WOULD BE EXCELLENT FOLLOW-UP MEASURE AT LATER STAGE.

3. AID PROGRAM PROPOSAL HAS ALSO BEEN BRIEFLY DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENT OF PERU, WHICH IS STUDYING IT AND WILL CONTACT MISSION SHORTLY. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT PERU ALREADY RECEIVES ASSISTANCE IN TROPICAL FORESTRY FIELD FROM FAO, SWITZERLAND, AND OTHER SOURCES. LARGEST PENDING ASSISTANCE OFFER IS FROM GOVERNMENT OF CANADA. LETTER HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO EQUIP A FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY IN JUNGLE AREA IN PUCALLPA. GOP WILL CONSTRUCT BUILDING, CANADIANS WOULD SUPPLY MOST OF THE EQUIPMENT (WHICH MUST BE OF TWO-THIRDS CANADIAN ORIGIN), AND LOCAL INDUSTRY WILL MAINTAIN INSTALLATION. CANADIANS WILL ALSO COOPERATE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF FORESTRY FACULTY AT UNIVERSITY OF IQUITOS.

4. REACTION OF GOP TO SUBJECT PROGRAM PROPOSAL WILL BE CABLED SHORTLY.
DEAN

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